

XXIII.—A new Bat of the Genus *Scotæcus*.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG a series of well-prepared skins from Nyasaland presented to the National Museum by Mr. Rodney C. Wood, there occur examples of several rare bats, notably *Myotis welwitschii* and *bocagei*, *Glauconycteris papilio*, *Eptesicus megalurus*, and a *Scotæcus* which appears to be new. The last may be called

*Scotæcus woodi*, sp. n.

Near *S. albofuscus* of the Gambia, but smaller.

Size about the smallest of the genus. General colour above dark brown (near mummy-brown), the tips of the hairs paler brown; under surface little paler, near Prout's brown. Wings coloured as in *S. albofuscus*, the forearms, digits, hind limbs, and tail blackish, the membranes internal to a line from elbow to knee, and the interfemoral dark brown, those external to forearms dull whitish, rather darker terminally. Ears short, with large external basal lobe; tragus short and broad, its inner margin slightly concave.

Skull short and stumpy, of the characteristic broad shape usual in the genus, the lacrymal breadth even greater than in *S. albofuscus*. Nasal notch very deep. Median part of zygoma absent in type.

Incisors slender, their bases not touching the canines. Canines broadened transversely, their basal area broader than long, and flattened behind, close and parallel to the front edge of the large premolar; no small premolar or place for it present.

Dimensions of the type (the italicized measurements taken in the flesh):—

Forearm 28·5 mm.

Head and body 56 mm.; tail 27; ear 12.

Third finger, metacarpus 28, first phalanx 10, second phalanx 8; lower leg and hind foot (c. u.) 17·5.

Skull: greatest length 13·2; median upper length 11; basi-sinual length 9·8; greatest breadth 10·3; lacrymal breadth 6·7; mastoid breadth 9·1; palato-sinual length 4·5; front of canine to back of *m*<sup>3</sup> 4·9.

*Hab.* Southern Nyasaland. Type from Chiromo; alt. 200'.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 17. 2. 1. 1. Original number 173. Collected 2nd October, 1916, and presented by Rodney C. Wood, Esq.

This species may be distinguished from its only close, though geographically very distant, ally *S. albofuscus* by its smaller size, proportionally even broader skull, and the different shape of the base of its canines. The other members of the genus all have uniformly brown wing-membranes.

I may note that of twelve skulls of *Scoteucus*, including examples of all the described species, only two have complete zygomata, although all have been prepared by that most skilful skull-cleaner Mr. W. Sherrin. Imperfection or, at least, excessive tenuity of the zygoma would therefore appear to be an additional character of the genus *Scoteucus*. Of forty skulls of *Scoteinus* similarly prepared by Mr. Sherrin, nearly all have perfect, although very slender, zygomata.

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XXIV.—*A new Species of Aconæmys from Southern Chili.*  
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE British Museum has recently received from Mr. J. A. Wolffsohn a specimen of the rare genus *Aconæmys* (*Schizodon*, Waterh.) which had been presented to him by the well-known naturalist Don Carlos E. Porter. The species proving to be new, I propose to name it in honour of the latter, to whom the Museum has been indebted for help in various ways.

*Aconæmys porteri*, sp. n.

Fur more woolly than in *A. fuscus*; tail more completely bicolor; incisors stouter.

Size about as in *A. fuscus* or rather smaller. Fur soft, more woolly, less straight than in *A. fuscus*, the general texture and the colour both suggesting that of a European water-vole (*Arvicola amphibius*). General colour deep rich brown, near "auburn" of Ridgway, the subterminal rings on the hairs dull cinnamon. Under surface similar but rather warmer in tone, the ends of the hairs rich cinnamon. Hands and feet greyish white, the middle part of the metatarsus rather darker. Tail rather longer than in *A. fuscus* and completely bicolor, black above and creamy whitish below for